

a first unit receiving an input signal obtained by multiplexing a plurality of signals for terminals;

a second unit time-divisionally dividing a signal which is one of said plurality of signals into first N signals;

a third unit converting the first N signals into second N signals, wherein a timeslot of the second N signals is as long as a timeslot of said input signal;

a fourth unit providing the second N signals separately to a plurality of base stations, respectively; and

10 a fifth unit converting each of the second N signals into a plurality of radio signals and transmitting each of said plurality of radio signals from an antenna of each of the base stations to one of the terminals.--

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending, claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been amended to overcome the § 112 rejection and not to overcome the prior art and claims 18 and 19 have been added. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that it is not clear what is meant by "another signal". Accordingly, these claims have been amended in accordance with the above to overcome this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Nishimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,490,183). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks.

The present invention is directed to addressing data to a terminal, the data being divided into items in a time divisional manner and transmitting the data at a reduced bit rate within a tolerable frequency radio band via a plurality of base stations. In other words, for example, an input signal is distributed into at least two signals, a first signal and a second signal. The time slot (duration) of the second signal, which is supplied to the base station, is the same as the time slot of the input signal. Accordingly, the signals which are to be converted into radio signals in the radio stations already have a reduced rate (time slot) before they are sent to the radio stations. This means that the operation frequency of the base stations is reduced, thereby reducing power consumption.

The Examiner admits that the admitted prior art does not disclose down-converting each signal no more than a frequency which is allocated to each base station. However, the Examiner asserts that this feature is taught by Nishimura. The Examiner refers to Fig. 1 of Nishimura and states that data multiplexing and separating circuit 21 connects to an ISDN system and converts the signal received from the ISDN system from 64 kbps into a plurality of signals having a lower bit rate, i.e., 11.2 kbps. Then, the Examiner asserts that these signals are transmitted to a plurality of base stations 3a-3n. The Examiner refers to Nishimura, col. 2, line 9 through col. 3, line 22 and col. 9, lines 60-67).

However, upon review of Nishimura (specifically the portions relied upon by the Examiner), Nishimura actually discloses that an identical signal is transmitted to the plurality of bas stations but that this signal is not time-divisionally distributed into at least two signals where each of the signals is sent to the terminal via one of the base stations, which is different from a base station corresponding to another signal of the at least two signals, as claimed in the pending claims.

Specifically, col. 2, lines 13-19, states "[D]ata multiplexing and separating circuit 21 separates the multiplexed 64 kbps digital audio signal supplied from the mobile communication exchange station 1 for respective message channels to provide single corresponding demultiplexed 64 kbps digital audio signals to digital audio signal processing apparatuses
" Then, the 64 kbps signal is coded into a *corresponding* 11.2 kbps digital audio signal to

provide a low bit rate signal (emphasis added). Thus, it is clear that one 11.2 kbps signal corresponds to one 64 kbps signal and that the 64 kbps signal has not been distributed into at least two signals, as claimed in the pending claims (1-2 and 6-7). Thus, the features of these claims are not taught or suggested by the admitted prior art in combination with Nishimura because Nishimura fails to disclose that which the Examiner asserts.

Further, Nishimura fails to teach or suggest transmitting signals obtained by dividing a signal directed to one terminal via different base stations at a reduced rate (frequency), as claimed in the pending claims. Still further, the Examiner has not provided where in Nishimura he believes that this feature is taught or suggested. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims 18 and 19

Claims 18 and 19 recite substantially the same allowable features as claim 1 and, accordingly, are allowable in view of the foregoing.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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